

...acue of the teacher, and  
 the pupils in our schools.  
 I appeal to them to come out and take  
 their stand in the spelling reform move-  
 ment alongside of such distinguished  
 English scholars as Prof. March, Prof.  
 Whitney, and Prof. Lounsbury in Am-  
 erica, and Prof. Joyce, Dr. Murray,  
 Prof. Sweet, Prof. Skeat, Dr. Angus Dr.  
 Morris and Mr. Alex. J. Ellis in Eng-  
 land. They will find themselves in most  
 excellent company if they do; they will  
 soon find themselves in most undesirable  
 company if they do not. The time is  
 rapidly approaching when every man  
 who avows himself an opponent of a  
 rational reform of our English spelling  
 will be regarded as either a fossil crank  
 or a self-confessed ignoramus.

WM. HOUSTON.

Toronto, 22 Aug. '84.

[Dr. Grant, thus taken to task, did  
 not, so far as we no, make any attempt  
 to either explain or justify his position.  
 He and all other scholars no ful wel that  
 the present orthography is, in the words  
 of one of them, "utterly indefensible."  
 No scholar of standing has done so for  
 over a quarter of a century, while those  
 who admit and deplore its myriad de-  
 fects are legion.—EDITOR.]

### OPINIONS.

Mr. J. G. Gholson, attorney, writes  
 from Broughton, Ill.: "I am satisfied  
 that a large majority of reformers are  
 united or may be united on the fol-  
 lowing propositions:

1. The general adoption of an abso-  
 lutely pure fonetic spelling is a long  
 way in the future; and good fonetic

spelling will be a growth and not the  
 result of any sudden revolution.

2. For present purposes, we need an  
 orthography as nearly fonetic as may be  
 and yet so like the old that any person  
 who can read the old can also read the  
 new without preparatory study.

3. The foregoing need is best sup-  
 plied by (a) retaining the digraphs *ou* or  
*oe*, *ch*, *sh*, *th*, *ng*, and *zh* for *s* as in  
*vision*, which, with one exception, *ch*,  
 actually picture the organs of speech  
 in making the *c* (thongs and trifthong)  
 which they severally represent. (b) The  
 introduction of 8 modifications of the  
 vowels *a* represent the vowel sounds  
 unprovided for in the old orthography;  
 (c) dropping all silent letters and spelling  
 according to sound.

[What Mr. G. has stated with judicial  
 precision is the platform of this journal.  
 At p. 3 of Jan. no. will be found a solu-  
 tion of the problem fulfilling in prac-  
 tice the above theoretical conditions. A  
 betwixt, the best solution is wisht. Dr.  
 Larison of Ringoes, New Jersey, has  
 another solution covering the same  
 ground. Those interested should remit  
 him for specimen. Others take different  
 ground. To these we shall call atten-  
 tion. The views of Prof. Scott and Mr.  
 G. are beacons lighting the way to the  
 same goal.—ED.]

Dr. J. J. Wadsworth, Inspector of  
 schools for Norfolk County, writes from  
 Simcoe: "I am in sympathy with the  
 movement to abolish once and forever  
 the barbarous system of spelling which  
 we now have and which is one of the  
 greatest barriers to the education of  
 the masses that we have to contend with

KEY:—Pronounce the following letters like the *static* in the word under each:  
 Aa Qa Qa Be Ee Ii fi Oo Oo Uu Uu Uu  
 at art als ell eel ill I nor not note ast put truth

Optional contractions: q for yu, q for yu, as mytqai, mutual; actqai, actual.  
 In writing, the shape Ee is made thus: Ee.

a, u, o, e, U.—In the article in last type, the 5 new letters e, a, o, e, and u  
 are employed. This gives a very leibni orthography—a maximum of approximation  
 to the principle of a sign for each sound with a minimum of change from the  
 forms now in use. With the 5 old vowels and these new ones, we have 10  
 vowel signs. Separate signs are still needed for long e, long i, and long u: for  
 these, expedients are resorted to, those of the old spelling being chosen in pre-  
 ference to new ones, as a rule, on the principle: *Change nothing which need  
 be changed again.* The old vowels a, e, i, o, u, are given as their fundamen-  
 tal values the vowel sounds in the words pat, pet, pit, poet, put, respectively.